

This edition of Virtual LAMP Post (VLP) has a number of announcements from USFA that I've been collecting since last summer while preparing for the start up of this service. The "Fire Service Warning" came to us via TRADE-Net and may be a warning worth noting to your fire fighters and students. Another story worth noting is DHS's research grant announcements.

Be reminded that for:

- Requests for information, assistance or input might be better served by posting them on TRADE-Net (<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa/trade/>)
- Information about jobs in USFA and others organizations around the country, go to: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/about/jobs/>. If you wish to post a fire- or emergency services-related job announcement, you may send it to the USFA Webmaster.

Look for the FESHE VII conference announcement in February. Mark your calendars for June 4 – 6, 2005 and, if you're interested in participating in the popular Phi Theta Kappa Public Safety Leadership and Ethics train-the-trainer workshop that was held last year, that will follow on June 7 – 11.

Please forward any announcements for posting you may have to Lori.Welch@dhs.gov. I hope you find the VLP useful to you. I welcome any ideas or suggestions for improving it that you may have.

For those in the Cold Belt, stay warm.

Ed Kaplan, Education Program Specialist
USFA/NFA

Fire Service Warning

From the Connecticut Fire Listserv:

This information was forwarded to me. Let's always be cautious when these gas charged shocks are impinged upon by fire.

On Sunday November 21, 2004, the Windsor Locks Fire Department responded to a reported car fire. Upon arrival the fire was confined to the engine compartment. During gaining access to the engine compartment, one of my firefighters had just released the hood safety latch when the hood shock strut exploded and fired into my firefighter, striking him in his upper thigh and piercing completely through his leg and bunker pants with the approximate 18 inch long strut. He is home recuperating and we will not know how extensive his injury is for a while yet.

I wish to make other departments mindful that these struts are gas filled and are common on General Motor products, in particular Buicks that I am aware of. In my 30 plus years on the fire department this is the first time I had ever heard of one these gas filled struts exploding like this. The fire and accident remain under investigation.

Please pass this along to other firefighters to be aware of the potential for these shocks to fail when exposed to fire. I am just grateful that this accident did not have a worse outcome. A picture of the car in question is on our Department's website at www.wlfd.com.

Gary Ruggiero, Chief
Windsor Locks Fire Department

DHS Research Grant Announcements

This is a message from the Department of Homeland Security/U.S. Fire Administration/Emergency Management Institute/Higher Education Project. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara L. Johnson at Barbara.L.Johnson@dhs.gov

Terror response research to get center

DHS Broad Agency Announcement on Center for the Study of High Consequence Event Preparedness and Response BY Dibya Sarkar Published on Jan. 14, 2005

The Homeland Security Department's Science and Technology Directorate has issued a broad agency announcement to establish a university-based center that will study high consequence event preparedness and response, especially those arising from terrorist acts.

The directorate is seeking innovative multidisciplinary research, education efforts, and technology development in disaster preparedness to improve the nation's countermeasures against the effects of weapons of mass destruction, according to the BAA posted today. While there is much experience in natural disasters, there is little experience in dealing with WMDs.

"There are certainly useful analogues to be found in more familiar disasters, but the sparse historical record and the obvious impossibility of realistic full-scale experiment or rehearsal make research into high-consequence terrorist acts vitally important," the BAA reads.

"Research that the center sponsors is intended to redress gaps in our understanding of how best to prepare and respond."

DHS officials are particularly interested in proposals that address the future needs for first responders and how they will achieve and maintain situational awareness and make informed and timely decisions. The center should also integrate education and research involving postsecondary students and scholars and develop innovative multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches.

The center should address preparedness, prevention and deterrence, decision-making, effective response networks and modeling and simulation.

DHS will award a total of \$15 million for the center over three years. Proposals from eligible U.S. academic institutions must be received by April 22 and the award notification will be June 22.

The initiative will be the fifth Homeland Security Center of Excellence established since November 2003. The department is building a national network of such centers that will collaborate with each other.

From the Intellibridge Homeland Security Monitor, 19 Jan 05 DHS to Open Fifth Center for Excellence DHS's Science and Technology Directorate is planning to establish a fifth Homeland Security Center of Excellence, this time to focus on high-consequence-event preparedness and response pertaining to terrorist acts, Federal Computer Week reported.

The agency announcement to establish the center said it would seek to use innovative multidisciplinary research, education efforts, and technology development focusing on disaster preparedness in order to improve the nation's countermeasures against WMDs.

"There are certainly useful analogues to be found in more familiar disasters, but the sparse historical record and the obvious impossibility of realistic full-scale experiment or rehearsal make research into high-consequence terrorist acts vitally important," the Broad Agency Announcement stated.

The government wants the center to focus on addressing the future needs for first responders and on how they can achieve and maintain situational awareness.

Further, the center will likely integrate education and research involving postsecondary students and scholars to develop innovative multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches as well as address preparedness, prevention and deterrence, decision-making, effective response networks, and modeling and simulation. DHS will award \$15 million over three years for the awarded institution.

CQ HOMELAND SECURITY – INDUSTRY & CONTRACTING Jan. 14, 2005 – 10:06 p.m.

New DHS University Grant to Fund High Consequence Research Program By Tim Starks, CQ Staff

By this summer, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) plans to have named the winning team for its fifth Center of Excellence, according to a solicitation released Jan. 14, seeking bids for the Center for the Study of High Consequence Event Preparedness and Response.

The three-year, \$15 million project will focus on studying the preparation of the nation for a weapons of mass destruction attack, including first responders and the private sector, the announcement said.

"We are particularly interested in such high-consequence terrorism precisely because of its unfamiliarity to both specialists and the general public," the announcement said.

The Center of Excellence will address such topics as preparedness, prevention and deterrence; decision making before, during and after a high-consequence attack; what makes for an effective response network; and modeling and simulation.

Letters of intent are due Feb. 18, submissions are due April 22, and an award is scheduled for June 22.

Earlier this month, DHS announced the University of Maryland had won a \$12 million, three-year grant to host the Center of Excellence for Behavioral and Social Research on Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism.

The University of Minnesota last year got a three-year, \$15 million grant, and Texas A&M a three-year, \$18 million grant, to host Centers of Excellence focused on agricultural terrorism. The University of Southern California last year became the first Center of Excellence with a three-year, \$12 million grant to study terror threats and the economic aftershock of attacks.

The Centers of Excellence are popular with Congress, which boosted the Science and Technology Directorate's funding for university programs from \$30 million, as President Bush proposed, to \$70 million in the fiscal 2005 Homeland Security appropriations law (PL 108-334).

The directorate's undersecretary, Charles E. McQueary, has discussed proposals for only five centers, but some lawmakers have asked for up to 10.

Source: CQ Homeland Security
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Research

RS05: Call for Paper Presenters

An Invitation...An Opportunity to Make a Difference

The 2005 *IFSJLM* Research Symposium (RS05) will be held July 9, 2005, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. This event is held each year on the Saturday before the beginning of the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) Validation Conference. The Research Symposium supports the refereed scholarly publication published by Oklahoma State University, *International Fire Service Journal of Leadership and Management (IFSJLM)*.

The theme of RS05 is: *Best Practices...Improving Fire Leadership and Management*. We invite individuals interested in delivering a paper at the symposium to submit no later than February 15, 2005, a one-page paper proposal electronically to editor_ifsjlm@osufpp.org (notice the underscore between editor and ifsjlm) or by regular mail to Dr. Robert England, Department of Political Science, Oklahoma State University, 531 Math Sciences, Stillwater, Oklahoma 74078. The proposal should clearly, but briefly, identify the research topic, the scope of the research, and the methods used in the research.

This just in from Dr. Robert England, whose call for papers above appeared in the last edition of Virtual LAMP Post. The same opportunities for peer review are offered for writers of bachelor's senior projects, graduate papers and theses, etc.:

Can you pass along to your EFO students and FESHE members the attached call for papers for the 05 Research Symposium and the Journal?

RS05 would be a great place for EFO students to present papers, receive feedback, and then send the paper to the journal for review.

As your best EFO students submit excellent papers on fire leadership and management, encourage them to send them to the journal for review. Even if the article is not accepted, they can get valuable feedback from reviewers and get a feel for how the process works. Remind them that established social science academic journals accept about 10 to 20 percent of articles submitted. I have been told "no thanks" many times. I am afraid that some students might not send papers because they are afraid that the paper might not be accepted. To be told "no" happens more than being told "yes." This is what makes the whole process so exciting. For when you get a "yes," the feeling is great. Is there a way that I can help alleviate this concern as the larger fire academic community learns more about how the process works?

Thanks so much for your support of the journal. Let me know what I need to do to help make the journal a valuable tool in the hands of your academic scholars. Perhaps we should consider publishing the best EFO best in the journal each year as judged by a panel comprised by IFSJLM Editorial Board members.

The paper would then be a peer reviewed article. Just a thought.

From TRADE-Net (Email Mr. Karasacki directly)

Aloha!

My name is Rick Karasaki, and I am employed by the Honolulu Fire Department.

Under the direction of Assistant Chief Kenneth Silva, we will be attempting to develop a link for the WFCA's web page that will provide information for incumbent and future Fire Chief Officers. The information will consist of available resources, curriculum, courses, seminars, conferences, point-of-contacts, etc., aimed to maintain Fire Chief Officer Credentials, professional standards, and industry standards for incumbents. The link will also provide future Chief Officers with an avenue for career and professional development.

I am interested in getting information on programs that are already in place in each of the ten western states in the following areas:

- * Programs offered to incumbent and future Chief Officers relating to career/professional development
- * In-house fire service programs
- * Fire Science
- * Public Administration
- * Any other information, comments, and recommendations

Any information or direction you can provide is very much appreciated. My deadline to submit the first draft is January 29, 2005. Thank you for your support.

Rick Karasaki
Certification Program Development Manager Honolulu Fire Department
rkarasaki@co.honolulu.hi.us

ASPEP (American Society of Professional Emergency Planners) Journal CD ROM Offer:

November 17, 2004 -- Received from ASPEP Officer, Valerie Quigley, the following announcement:

Ten Years of ASPEP Journals available to FEMA higher ed College List

ASPEP (American Society for Professional Emergency Planners) was established in 1972 by the graduating class of the Career Development Program for Civil Defense Directors at the Federal Staff College in Battle Creek, MI. When the Federal Training Center moved to the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, MD, the annual meetings were conducted during the annual Conference of the US Civil Defense Council, subsequently called NCCEM (National Coordinating Council on Emergency Management) and now called IAEM (International Association of Emergency Managers).

The primary goal of ASPEP was to foster professionalism and encourage continuing education in emergency management. In 1994, ASPEP initiated the publication of a professional journal, designed to publish 'practitioners' in a professional publication. Over the past several years, the ASPEP leadership has recognized parallels and duplicative efforts between ASPEP and IAEM. The decision was made to gracefully dissolve ASPEP and transfer their activities into IAEM.

A CD containing all the ASPEP journals from 1994 through 2004 is now available free to all the institutions listed on the FEMA Higher Ed College List. If you are interested, send an email to Valerie Quigley vquigley@lbl.gov and include a complete mailing address, including the name of the institution.

NOTE: If your school is not on this list, I suggest you inform Ms. Quigley that you are involved in FEMA's Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education Program. If this is unsuccessful, email me at Ed.Kaplan@dhs.gov and let me know.

From the "Emergency Management Forum"--Survey of Colleges and Universities With Emergency Management Programs:

October 12, 2004 -- Received from Dr. Hank Fischer, Director of the Center for Disaster Research & Education, Millersville University of Pennsylvania, the results of a survey he conducted in 2004 of colleges and universities with emergency management programs. Some findings from the survey, which had a disappointing 35% response rate:

54% of those who teach in emergency management collegiate programs have a Ph.D. Those teaching in such programs average 8 years teaching emergency management courses The average for administering an emergency management collegiate program is 3 years There were 3 tenured or tenure track faculty members and 3 part-time faculty teaching courses in the average program The median age of students was 30 85% of

students were in a degree program as opposed to a stand-alone certificate 65% of responding institutions use distance learning to at least some degree, if not totally The average program has 20 full time students enrolled and 40 part time.

[Given that there are today 119 collegiate emergency management programs, this extrapolates to something like 7,000 total emergency management students.] The direction of both enrollment and graduation of program students is going up Most respondents expect a doubling or tripling of students in their programs over the next several years The median class size is 18 students, whether class-room based on distance learning Number 1 concern -- finding qualified faculty Number 2 concern -- access to enough textbooks and other teaching resources Number 3 concern -- meeting student demand with courses Number 4 concern -- funding to support the program and students Number 5 concern -- too much emphasis on homeland security Number 1 expectation -- increased enrollments Number 2 expectation -- increased faculty Number 3 expectation -- increased use of distance learning Number 1 recommendation for FEMA EM HiEd Project -- develop visual aid materials Number 2 recommendation -- develop more courses Number 3 recommendation -- develop more textbooks and case studies

Dr. Fischer's report was forwarded to the EMI Webmaster and posted to the Project web-site -- Articles, Papers and Presentations section.

If the Project receives sufficient funding in the current 2005 fiscal year, we would be interested in supporting the development of other reports on the results of surveys of institutions of higher education with emergency management programs.

Issue #3 of the Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is now available on line at:

<http://www.bepress.com/jhsem/vol1/iss3/>

Job vacancy announcements

Fire Programs
Clinical Assist/Assoc Professor

Arizona State University invites applications for a full-time, clinical, non-tenure track assistant or associate professor, beginning August 16, 2005, to teach undergraduate and graduate level courses in more than one of the following areas: fire administration, fire prevention and public education, EMS, public policy, budgeting and finance, incident command, fire department safety, labor relations, fire personnel management, and research methods. Individuals are expected to participate in a wide range of activities from teaching to administrative assignments, including a full range of responsibilities related to working with students. For complete qualifications and application information see <http://www.east.asu.edu/ctas/imt/html/facultyHire.html> Deadline is March 1, 2005; if not filled, every 15 days thereafter until search closed. AA/EOE

The Environmental Technology Management program is located in the Department of Information and Management Technology which is part of the College of Technology

and Applied Sciences at Arizona State University. Located at the Polytechnic Campus, one of four ASU campuses in the metropolitan Phoenix area, the department currently has 14 full-time faculty and approximately 400 students. The Environmental Technology Management program has over 100 students, operates a well equipped analytical research laboratory, and coordinates the State of Arizona's Alternate Emergency Operations Center.

USFA Announcements

New Command and Control Nursing Home Simulation Now Available on USFA's Virtual Campus

The *Q424 Nursing Home Fire* simulation presents the user with a kitchen fire in a two-story nursing home. Upon successful completion of this online simulation course, the user will be able to recognize the rescue issues related to this type of occupancy - those people who have differing medical problems and those people who are visiting.

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/about/media/2005releases/012005.shtm>

Fire Corps Announces Official Launch New Program for Citizen Advocates

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/about/media/2004releases/121004.shtm>

FEMA Announces New National Response Plan (NRP) Online Training

<http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/is800.asp>

FEMA Announces New National Incident Management System (NIMS) Online Training

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWEB/IS/is700.asp>

FEMA and the National Fire Protection Association Partner to Cut Death Rate from Rural Fires in the United States

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/inside-usfa/research/other/rural-mitigation.shtm>

Special Report Uses National Fire Incident Reporting Data To Study Night Club Fires In the U. S.

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/inside-usfa/nfdc/pubs/tfrs.shtm>

FEMA Release Recommendations for Emergency Response To Major Incidents Based in Part On The Events of September 11, 2001

www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa-282.pdf

FEMA'S New Online Course Helps Urban Firefighters Battle Wildfires More Safely

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/applications/nfacsd/display.jsp?cc=Q618>

FEMA and National Volunteer Fire Council Announce New Health and Wellness Guide for the Volunteer Fire Service

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/inside-usfa/research/safety/fitness.shtm>

FEMA'S New Online Course Helps Schools Develop Effective Emergency Operation Plans

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is362.asp>

USFA Incident Management Team Technical Assistance Program Overview

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/subjects/incident/imt/overview.shtm>